THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) According to information furnished by University Grants Commission, no such proposal has been received by the Commission from the Government of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Relaxation of "No construction zone limit" for beach resorts

68. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to relax the 'No construction zone limit' for Beach Resorts from 500 Metres to 200 Metres from the high tide line; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of beach resorts within 500 metres but beyond 200 metres from the high tide line was earlier allowed only in case of four areas namely, Puri-Konark, Goa, Madras-Mahabalipuram and Trivandrum. It was felt that similar dispensation should be given to other areas subject to compliance with the environmental guidelines laid down for this purpose.

Development of Forces in the East coast of Tamil Nadu

69. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what effective steps have been taken to deploy heavy forces in the volunerable east coast of Tamil Nadu, from Vedaranyam to Rameshwaram to contain the insurgency of terrorists from neighbouring country; and

(b) whether Government propose to station for ever a Military unit of all the wings of the defence forces to have constant vigil in the coastal area of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) The State Government have taken steps to effectively contain the possibility of terrorist and other unlawful activities in Tamil Nadu arising out of the situation prevailing in Srilanka. These include the deployment of special police contingents and mobile parties and setting up of check posts. Besides the above, a contingent of CRPF has been deployed in Tamil Nadu and surveillance/patrolling by the Navy and Coast Guard in the Palk Strait have been intensified.

Indian Artificial Satellites Orbiting the Earth

70. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Artificial Satellites of India orbiting the Earth at present;

(b) what useful information the country is getting from these Satellites; and

(c) what is the impact of this information received from the Satellites on our programmes for improvement of socio-economic conditions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) there are eight artificial satellites of India orbiting the earth at present. Out of these, three satellites, namely, Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1A), INSAT-1B and INSAT-1D are operational now. Of the remaining Aryabhatta, Bhaskara-II and APPLE have completed their mission objectives while the mission of INSAT-1A and INSAT-1C has been closed.